

DAKIELS APPOINTS SPECIAL BOARD ON WRECKING OF E-2

Will Not Conflict With Body
Named by Admiral Usher at
the Navy Yard.

TO EXAMINE WHOLE SUBMARINE QUESTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Secretary Daniels announced to-night the appointment of a special court of inquiry to inquire into all the circumstances surrounding the explosion on the submarine E-2. The work of this court will be independent of the investigation being made by the board of officers at the yard, and its principal function will be to determine whether any negligence or inefficiency on the part of officers of the submarine or of the yard was responsible for the tragedy.

The special court will convene at the New York yard to-morrow morning, and consist of Capt. William H. G. Bullard, superintendent of the naval radio service, an expert on electrical batteries, as chairman; Lieutenant-Commander H. G. Sparrow of the Bureau of Naval Engineering; Lieut. C. S. McDowell of the New York yard, and Lieut. J. O. Fisher, commanding the fourth division of the Atlantic submarine flotilla, as judge advocate.

The order signed by Secretary Daniels appointing the court gives to it broad powers of investigation, enabling it to extend its inquiry to the general question of submarine efficiency. It says: "The court is not to be restricted in its inquiries to the E-2, nor to the incident of the explosion, but to the general question of submarine efficiency, and to the extent of its inquiry to the general question of submarine efficiency. It is to be the duty of the court to determine the cause and responsibility for this accident and the culpability of any person or persons, and accordingly the scope of the court of inquiry is extended to cover all matters pertaining to the explosion or cause thereof."

The work of the new court of inquiry is expected to be finished this week, according to Secretary Daniels. It is meantime the installation of the Edison battery in the E-2, now under construction at Portsmouth will not be allowed to proceed. Mr. Edison himself is expected to be in Washington soon and as chairman of the Naval Advisory Board he will testify before the House Naval Affairs Committee as the necessity for a naval testing laboratory.

"The accident, deplorable as it was," said Secretary Daniels today, "is a noteworthy lesson as to the need for such a laboratory and will enable us to test out thoroughly all new inventions before trying them out on shipboard."

In connection with the accident to the Edison battery on the E-2 it was learned to-night that the Navy Department experts are about to urge on Secretary Daniels to ask Congress for a special appropriation which will permit the construction of a new single unit engine which will operate, it is claimed by the inventor, for cruising under water as well as on the surface and will run by the use of electricity. The new engine will have its steam generated by oil burners, and when the submarine is operating under water the oil burners for breathing purposes as well as for combustion under the boiler would be furnished from compressed air tanks in the forward part of the vessel.

BLAME HYDROGEN GAS.

Navy Yard Board Said to Have Reached That Decision.

The board of investigation appointed by Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, commanding of the New York Navy Yard, to ascertain the facts of the explosion in the submarine E-2 on Saturday last, completed its report today and turned over a long report of the case. Admiral Usher said it would be forwarded to the Navy Department at Washington this morning. It was understood that the board's findings do not contradict the prevailing theory that the explosion was due to an accumulation of hydrogen gas.

Officials of the navy yard were convinced yesterday that the primary cause of the blast which killed four men was the presence of hydrogen gas in the battery compartment. The workmen were enraged. The possibility of any other cause was discounted entirely. It then remained a question, which will probably be settled by the report of the investigating board, just what caused the gas to accumulate. The board is expected to make a recommendation as to whether the gas was caused by a spark of one kind or another, or a tender, or a fault in the machinery precipitated the blast.

Admiral Usher told a reporter for THE SUN that as far as he was informed the board's findings, which at the time had not been presented to him formally, did not change the first theory advanced to explain the disaster. Commander Frank B. Upham, second in authority to Admiral Usher, said that the board's findings were in line with the theory that the explosion was caused by a spark of one kind or another, or a tender, or a fault in the machinery precipitated the blast.

Admiral Usher was pleased to state that the three men in the naval hospital, E. L. Miles, Guy H. Clark and John Halsey, who were most seriously hurt, were better yesterday, but the surgeons could not say that they were out of danger. The six in the Cumberland street hospital will probably recover. All of them denied yesterday in response to a question telephoned up to their nurse that any one in the submarine was smoking.

Owing to the condition of the men in the Cumberland street hospital, Commander Usher, who determined upon an inquiry this week, said that he would postpone his investigation from to-morrow to a week from Thursday. The board visited the men in the Cumberland street hospital yesterday morning and was much impressed. "They can scarcely speak," was his comment. "If they were able to talk to a jury for a couple of weeks, and some of them may have difficulty talking at all."

Guy Hamilton Clark, Jr., one of the victims of the explosion, died last night at 10:15 o'clock in the Naval Hospital. He was a married man, 34 years of age, and enlisted in Buffalo several years ago. His next of kin is Guy Hamilton Clark of Frankfort, N. Y.

chances for John Holley, gunner's mate, Miller Reese Hutchison, Mr. Edison's personal representative, affirmed reports that the Government's purchase of the Edison battery with which the E-2 was equipped had not been completed. He denied that there had been any question of its safety.

The only test remaining was one of capacity," he said. Producing government reports detailing the result of elaborate tests made of the storage battery in the E-2 under practical operating conditions. The only condition was that the battery should discharge 2,133 amperes in one hour.

Mr. Hutchison maintained that the battery would not be found to be liable for the explosion on the submarine. Some alleged experts, he said, were making fools of themselves by passing judgment. "At the end of nine hours continuous service, with the boat sealed," he said, "the total amount of hydrogen gas in the battery was only .06 per cent, many points below the danger point. Practically no hydrogen was produced, but there was enough oxygen to supply fifteen men."

"I want to call special attention to the fact that after inspecting the E-2 I saw no reason to recommend to Mr. Edison any changes in the battery as used on the submarine."

"It is not reasonable to suppose that the Navy Department, after having eighteen months to test the cells supplied by the Edison battery, should have failed to find out that the battery was not a German submarine."

"The foreign submarines that I have mentioned as using Edison batteries successfully are not German submarines."

FORCE NEW HAVEN TO ACT.

Public Service Commissioners Order New Car Lighting.

The Public Service Commissioners of the First and Second Districts, meeting in joint session yesterday, ordered the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company to begin on May 1 the installation of a new system of lighting in its suburban trains.

Fifty of the cars must be equipped on May 1 and sixty-five of them by June 1. Counsel for the company asked that time be given for further tests, which brought a protest from Commissioner Hayward.

"This case has been before us for a year," he said, "and the not more than two of the sixty-five cars and nine are in the shops now. I think the railroad has been pursuing a procrastinating policy. Commissioner Howe declared that he didn't think further tests were necessary."

LORD SAVES BRICK THROWER.

Deputy Police Commissioner Pleads in Court for Poor Man.

Because Deputy Police Commissioner Frank A. Lord took an active interest in the case, Thomas J. Woods, who threw a brick through the window of the jewelry store of Lambert Bros., 343 Third avenue, on January 10, to call attention to the destruction of his family, is free today.

Woods appeared before Justice Russell, Herman and Preschl in Special Sessions yesterday to answer to a charge of malicious mischief. He explained that his object was not robbery, but merely to attract attention to the destruction of his family at 224 East Ninety-sixth street.

The police became interested in Woods's case and found his story true. They provided food and clothes for the family and paid the rent.

Deputy Commissioner Lord appeared in court yesterday and pleaded with the judges to be lenient with Woods. The result was a suspended sentence.

YOUNG ACTRESS WINS PRAISE IN "OUTCAST"

Jeanne Eagels Is Seen in the Role Created by Elsie Ferguson.

There was a greater air of interest than usual about the proceedings at the Standard Theatre last night, although the play being presented, "The Outcast," is a play which has attracted large audiences, and the Monday night atmosphere is quite that of a first night. Last night the young actress, Jeanne Eagels, who appeared in "Outcast" in the role created by Elsie Ferguson, and here by her charming and characterful performance of the heroine, which imparted new interest to the play. She was surrounded by an excellent company.

The evening of the Theatre Francaise last night acted "Arsene Lupin," by Marcel Leblanc, which was seen here at the Lyceum Theatre. It is the tale of a young scamp modeled so obviously on our own Raffles. M. Becman has known only successes since he came to New York and he should give the signal to his talents by learning to play in English. The whole performance was excellent so far as its general characteristics were concerned.

\$25,000 HOTEL GEM ROBBERY.

Man Who Believed Every One He Met Is Made the Victim.

Jewelry valued at \$25,000 was stolen Saturday afternoon from the suite of Mr. and Mrs. George Bird on the twelfth floor of the Hotel Gem. The thief was a private detective agency and local police detectives have been trying to trace the thief and the jewelry. As yet no clue has been developed.

The pieces stolen include a diamond sunburst pin with a five-carat stone in the center, a pendant with three large and three small diamonds, a string of 300 pearls and various other settings, most of them being presents made to each other by Mr. and Mrs. Bird.

DROPS THIRD TRACKING SUIT.

Brooklyn Man Who Got Injunction Not Property Owner.

The injunction suit brought by Frederick C. Williams before Supreme Court Justice Manning in Brooklyn against the Public Service Commission to prevent the tracking of the Fulton street elevated road was withdrawn yesterday.

Robert Stewart, counsel for Williams, admitted that his client was not the owner of the premises on Fulton street, under which claim the temporary injunction has been granted, and Leroy Harkness, who appeared for the Public Service Commission, said that it was his idea that Williams had been used as a tool for others.

District Attorney Cropsy is investigating the matter of the alleged false affidavits which figures in the injunction proceeding.

RUSSIAN BALLET MAKES ITS NEW YORK DEBUT, REVEALING BEAUTIFUL FORM OF DRAMATIC ART

Solid Popularity, Which Is
Abundantly Deserved, Pre-
dicted for Visitors.

AUDIENCE IS DELIGHTED

Serge de Diaghileff's Ballet Russe disclosed itself to Americans at the Century Theatre last evening. This now celebrated organization was discovered by Paris after official Petrograd had thrown so many difficulties in the way of Mr. de Diaghileff that he took the dancers and mimes and left the country. The Parisians took the visitors to their hearts, for this was an art of the theatre capable of making to Frenchmen a special and irresistible appeal. Whether it will prove as compelling in act and do not dance. The thing is a tense and compact tragedy in which no word is spoken, and to which Rimsky-Korsakov's music furnishes a melodious and suggestive background.

In the other numbers of last evening's programme dancing, as old fashioned lovers of ballet understand it, is exhibited. "La Princesse Enchantee" is merely a title to justify scenery which

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"L'Oiseau de Feu."
Russian tale in two scenes, by Michael Fokine, music by Igor Stravinsky.

"Scheherazade."
Persian tale, by Leon Bakst and Michael Fokine, music by Rimsky-Korsakov.

"The Fire Bird."
Russian tale, by Igor Stravinsky, music by Rimsky-Korsakov.

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OLD THEME VARIED IN "JUST A WOMAN"

Eugene Walter's Latest Drama
Offering a Story of
a Discarded Wife.

IT IS TOLD IN FIVE ACTS

"Just a Woman"—At the Forty-eighth Street Theatre.
The Men.....Walter Hampton
The Woman.....Josephine
The Hired Girl.....George Christie
The French Maid.....Virginia Allen
The Butler.....H. H. Herbert
The Detective.....Margaret McVade
The Judge.....Frank Monroe
The Coachman.....John Arthur

Eugene Walter is the author of "Just a Woman," which was acted last night at the Forty-eighth Street Theatre under the aegis of the Shuberts. Mr. Walter has not been represented on the local stage since his powerful study of contemporary life, "Fine Players," was played here. And a new play from his pen is certain to be a stimulating picture of American life, although the achievement of the author may be of such uncertain quality. It is something, however, to have written the best play of his time, and that will always be the distinction of the author of "The Easiest Way."

Mr. Walter has come to occupy in the theatre something of the place that David Graham Phillips used to fill among the contemporary novelists. His plays deal always with some theme which has tempted to some consideration of society, to use that term in its broadest sense. Indeed the moving idea of "Just a Woman" was used by Mr. Phillips in one of his stories, "New Wives for Old Men." But the estr